

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A content management apparatus comprising:
~~acquiring means for acquiring content information indicative of attributes of content respectively stored in a plurality of storage devices connected to a network~~
first acquiring means for acquiring content information indicative of attributes of content stored in a first storage device connected to a first network that complies with a first communication protocol;
second acquiring means for acquiring content information indicative of attributes of content stored in a second storage device connected to a second network that complies with a second communication protocol different with the first communication protocol; and
sorting means for, when creating list information of the respective content stored in the first and second storage devices using the content information acquired by the first and second acquiring means and displaying the list information in a unified format, executing sort processing of the list information according to setting information defining display methods on a user's interface.
2. **(Original)** The content management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sorting means executes sort processing of the list information according to information in a setting file defining display methods for use when identical content is present, using the information in the setting file as the setting information.
3. **(Currently Amended)** The content management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sorting means determines whether identical content information is present among the content information acquired by the first and second acquiring means based on conditions for determining whether identical content is present, and executes designated sort processing of the list information including the identical content information.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The content management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sorting means determines whether identical content information is present among the content information acquired by the first and second acquiring means according to judgment information for determining whether identical content is present, and executes designated sort processing of the list information including the identical content information according to information in a setting file defining display methods for use when identical content is present, using the information in the setting file as the setting information.

5. **(Original)** The content management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the setting information is information in a setting file containing information for determining, for each category of content, whether identical content is present and information defining display methods for use when identical content is present.

6. **(Original)** The content management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

display means for displaying in list form the list information sorted by the sorting means.

7. **(Original)** The content management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sorting means is further operative for creating display list information according to filter-setting information defining additional display methods.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A content management apparatus comprising:
~~acquiring means for acquiring content information indicative of attributes of content respectively stored in a plurality of storage devices connected to a network~~

first acquiring means for acquiring content information indicative of attributes of content stored in a first storage device connected to a first network that complies with a first communication protocol;

second acquiring means for acquiring content information indicative of attributes of content stored in a second storage device connected to a second network that complies with a second communication protocol different with the first communication protocol; and

sorting means for, when creating list information of the ~~respective~~ content stored in the first and second storage devices using the content information acquired by the first and second acquiring means and displaying the list information in a unified format, creating display list information according to filter-setting information defining display methods on a user's interface.

9. **(Original)** The content management apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the sorting means executes processing in which content failing to meet a content reproduction condition defined by the filter-setting information is removed from the list information.

10. **(Original)** The content management apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the sorting means creates the display list information defining a display style of content information of content failing to meet a content reproduction condition defined by the filter-setting information, which is different from a display style designated to other content information.

11. **(Original)** The content management apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the filter-setting information is information in a file defining, for each reproduction format of content, a permissible range of transmission speeds of a server managing content as a content reproduction condition, and each designation information of a display style for use when transmission speed of the server is outside the permissible range.

12. **(Withdrawn)** A content management method applied to a content management apparatus collectively managing content respectively stored in a plurality of storage devices connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

acquiring content information indicative of attributes of content from each of the storage devices;

executing first sort processing for creating list information to be displayed in a unified format using the content information; and

executing second sort processing on the list information after the first sort processing according to setting information defining display methods for use when identical content is present.

13. (Withdrawn) The content management method according to claim 12, wherein the step of executing the second sort processing includes processing in which order of priority in displaying applicable content information is defined based on transmission speed of each server managing identical content.

14. (Withdrawn) The content management method according to claim 12; further including executing filter processing in which, using filter-setting information defining additional display methods according to content reproduction conditions, content failing to meet the reproduction conditions is identified from the list information and a display style of the identified content is set; and

creating display list information for displaying the list information in a unified format including the display style of the identified content set by the filter processing.

15. (Withdrawn) A content management method applied to a content management apparatus collectively managing content respectively stored in a plurality of storage devices connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

acquiring list information of content from each of the storage devices;

executing filter processing in which, using filter-setting information defining display methods according to content reproduction conditions, content failing to meet the reproduction conditions is identified from the list information and a display style of the content is set; and

creating display list information for displaying the list information in a unified format including the display style set by the filter processing.

16. (Withdrawn) The content management method according to claim 15, wherein in the step of executing the filter processing, the display style of the content failing to meet the reproduction conditions is set to non-display such that the content is removed from the list information.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A content management apparatus comprising:
~~an acquiring unit which acquires content information indicative of attributes of content respectively stored in a plurality of storage devices connected to a network~~
a first acquiring unit which acquires content information indicative of attributes of content stored in a first storage device connected to a first network that complies with a first communication protocol;
a second acquiring unit which acquires content information indicative of attributes of content stored in a second storage device connected to a second network that complies with a second communication protocol different with the first communication protocol; and
a sorting unit which operates, under software control, to execute sort processing of list information according to setting information defining display methods on a user's interface, said sorting unit operative when creating said list information of the respective content stored in the first and second storage devices using the content information acquired by the first and second acquiring units.

18. **(Original)** The content management apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the sorting unit executes sort processing of the list information according to setting information stored in a setting file defining display methods for use when identical content is present, said setting unit using the information in the setting file as the setting information.

19. **(Original)** The content management apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the sorting unit operates for additional creating display list information according to filter-setting information defining additional display methods.

20. **(Original)** The content management apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the sorting unit executes processing in which content failing to meet a content reproduction condition defined by the filter-setting information is removed from the list information.